

Updated January 2018

# FACTS AT-A-GLANCE

**Why A Wish?** We believe wishes can change the odds for children fighting their illness. A wish helps kids look past their limitations, families overcome anxiety and entire communities experience joy. Most importantly, wishes can improve a child's quality of life.

**Wishes Globally:** Make-A-Wish is the largest wish-granting organization in the world with 62 chapters in the U.S. and its territories and 38 international affiliates serving 50 countries. Tens of thousands of volunteers, donors and supporters advance the Make-A-Wish® vision to grant the wish of every child diagnosed with a critical illness. Worldwide, a wish is now granted every 21 minutes, reaching more than 350,000 children and their families since its founding in 1980.

**Wishes Locally:** Founded in 1985 by a group of local volunteers, Make-A-Wish Illinois has granted more than 14,000 wishes to children across the state. In fiscal year 2017, 716 wishes were granted reaching approximately 60% of children diagnosed with a critical illness.

**Who Do We Serve?** Children between 2½ and 18 who have a life-threatening medical condition are eligible for a wish. A child's diagnosis does not necessarily have to be terminal, but life-threatening.

**How Are Wishes Granted?** A caring community of people work together with Make-A-Wish to help improve lives of children battling critical illnesses. Make-A-Wish volunteers help children discover their one true wish. Our staff and volunteers meticulously plan the experience, make thoughtful decisions and communicate openly with families, surrounding them with support along the way.

**Know A Child?** Reaching every eligible child is a community-wide effort. A child's parents, legal guardians or a close family member with knowledge of the child's condition may make a referral directly to Make-A-Wish. Doctors, nurses, social workers, or other health care professionals may also refer a child. Make-A-Wish will grant a wish for any child who is deemed medically eligible by their treating physician. For more information, visit [www.illinois.wish.org/refer](http://www.illinois.wish.org/refer).

**Who Funds Wishes?** Financial support for Make-A-Wish Illinois comes from individual, corporate and foundation donors.

**How Does Make-A-Wish Rate?** Our program service expense ratio in fiscal year 2017 (September 1, 2016 to August 31, 2017) was 78 percent. This ratio exceeds the standards set by both Make-A-Wish America and the Better Business Bureau.

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